

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed May 20, 2009, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 11-12 and 14 are pending in this application, where claims 5, 8-10 and 13 had been previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 11 are independent.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 11-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,343,086 (de Vries). Further, claims 2, 4 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over de Vries in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,472,853 (Lorenz). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 6-7, 11-12 and 14 are patentable over de Vries and Lorenz for at least the following reasons.

As shown in FIG 4, de Vries is directed to a shaving apparatus that has hooks having arm portions, referred to as resilient parts 57, and hook portions referred to as hook-shaped projections 58.

As clearly shown in FIG 4, the arm portions or resilient parts 57 are vertical, and the hook portions or hook-shaped projections 58 extend from the arm portions or resilient parts 57 in a direction away from the center of a coupling member 37, and hook into recesses 41 in an inner periphery of a central body 38 that has an opening 40, as shown in FIG 4.

In stark contrast, the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 11, amongst other patentable elements recites (illustrative emphasis provided) :

snaps hooks are provided for fastening the coupling member to the inner cutter, wherein the snap hooks have arm portions and hook portions, the hook portions extending from the arm portions toward a center of the coupling member for hooking onto a coupling bush located around a center of the inner cutter, the coupling bush extending away from a carrier for the cutting elements, and wherein the arm portions, in a direction from the coupling member to the inner cutter, point toward the center of the coupling member.

Such Snaps hooks as recited in independent claims 1 and 11 are nowhere disclosed or suggested in de Vries. Rather, de Vries discloses hook portions or hook-shaped projections 58 that extend

from the arm portions or resilient parts 57 in a direction away from the center of a coupling member 37. Thus, de Vries teaches away from the having hook portions extending from the arm portions toward a center of the coupling member, as recited in independent claims 1 and 11.

Further, de Vries does not disclose or suggest that arm portions of the snap hooks, in a direction from the coupling member to the inner cutter, point toward the center of the coupling member, as recited in independent claims 1 and 11. Rather, the arm portions or resilient parts 57 of de Vries are vertical. Lorenz is cited to allegedly show other features and does not remedy the deficiencies in de Vries.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1 and 11 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, 6-7, 12 and 14 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 11, as well as their individually patentable elements.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the

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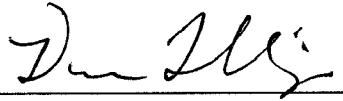
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Amendment in Reply to Office Action of May 20, 2009

foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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